

Fighting Deforestation, One Tree at a Time

A WebQuest for Career: Conservationist/Wangari Maathai: Planting Seeds of Change

Introduction

Deforestation is a major problem in Africa. More than 30 years ago, conservationist Dr. Wangari Maathai recognized this problem and decided to do something about it. She founded the Green Belt Movement (GBM), a grassroots organization that helps Kenyans (and people in other parts of Africa and the world) plant trees in deforested areas. The GBM has expanded its efforts into other areas of environmental and social justice, but tree planting remains one of its main focuses. In this WebQuest, you will learn why trees are so important to the environment and to the people of Africa. You will also learn how the GBM's tree-planting process works.

Task

You are a volunteer with the Green Belt Movement in Kenya. Your task is to teach a group of Kenyan woman why trees are so important to the environment and to the people of Africa. You will also be helping the group start a tree-planting program in their town.

Process

Use the resources listed in the Resources section to begin your research. The Web sites listed are good starting points, but further Internet research will be necessary. Record your answers to the following questions. You will use them to create several murals.

1. Why are trees important to Africa's environment?
2. Why are trees important to the people of Africa?
3. What is causing deforestation in Kenya and elsewhere in Africa?
4. How does the Green Belt Movement's tree-planting process work?
5. How does the Green Belt Movement's work help women?

Murals

Once research is completed, your teacher will divide you and your classmates into several groups. You and the other people in your group will create three murals: One to illustrate the importance of trees to Africa's environment and people; one to show the causes of deforestation; and one to detail the Green Belt Movement's tree-planting process. Use your research to make sure your murals are accurate.

Resources

[The Green Belt Movement](#)

[Nobel Prize](#)

[United Nations](#)

[The World Bank](#)

Evaluation

Read this rubric to see how you will be scored on this activity.

Criteria					Points
	0	5	10	15	
Task	The task was not completed.	Some effort was made to complete the task, but major ideas are missing.	The task was completed as assigned, but some of the information included in the murals was inaccurate.	The task was completed with great attention to detail and inclusion of accurate information.	
Process	The process was not followed.	The process was followed, but not all of the questions were answered.	The process was followed, and the information included in the murals was accurate.	It was clear that much research went into the project. The murals showed a high degree of originality and imagination.	
Murals	The murals were sloppy and did not depict information accurately.	The murals were neatly done, but some key ideas were missing.	The murals were well done, and most key ideas were included.	The murals were very creative and well done, and all key ideas were included.	
Total Score					